



City of Sebastopol

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November 15, 2005

Craig J. Wilson, Chief
Water Quality Assessment Unit
Division of Water Quality
State Water Resources Control Board
P. O. Box 100
Sacramento, CA 95812-0100

Dear Mr. Wilson:

We are responding to the Notice of Public Workshops and request for public comment on the Revision to Federal Clean Water Act Section (d) List of Water Quality Limited Segments for California. We strongly oppose the delisting of the Laguna de Santa Rosa for Nitrogen and Phosphorus. Please place us on your notification list for interested parties, and inform your Board about our correspondence on this matter. We would also like to receive the notice for the December 6th meeting as soon as possible. In addition, we are requesting that a public hearing be held in Sonoma County in order that the SWRCB can be fully informed about local concerns and potential impacts from this proposed action.

We are very concerned about the lack of public process at the local level. We understand that the Water Control Policy for Developing California's Clean Water Act Section 303(d) List, Section 6.2, requires, "At a public hearing, the RWQCB shall consider and approve each proposed list change as documented in water body fact sheet. Advance notice and opportunity for public comment shall be provided." Why is the only hearing taking place in Sacramento? Elimination of Regional Board hearings in Santa Rosa has in effect deprived many Sonoma County residents the opportunity to give first hand accounts of the many Laguna problems. Furthermore, we would like to know how many people in Sonoma County received the Public Notice about the Sacramento hearing in December on this issue? How was your meeting publicized here?

We are deeply concerned about the infestation of the Laguna de Santa Rosa by exotic plants such as Ludwigia, which is multiplying at such a prodigious rate that a very controversial chemical eradication program was initiated recently at a cost of \$1.5 million. There is evidence that these plants provide habitat for mosquitoes, feared to be spreading

West Nile virus, as well as degrading fish habitat. The eradication program is limited to only the two worst sections of the infestation, and if nutrients continue to be discharged, the situation could get much worse.

Thank you for your consideration. Please do not delist the Laguna for nutrients.

Sincerely,


Larry Robinson, Mayor
City of Sebastopol